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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,688	09/30/2003	Michael C. Kaye	016465-022	5077

21836 7590 12/14/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHU K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2671

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,688

Applicant(s)

KAYE ET AL.

Examiner

Phu K. Nguyen

Art Unit

2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,5,7,9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/2/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SMEULDERS et al. (Tracking Nonparameterized Object Contours in Video) in view of SELSIS et al. (Automatic Tracking and 3D Localization of Moving Objects by Active Contour Models)

As per claim 1, Smeulders teaches the claimed method comprising:

“tracking an object in an image” (Smeulders, page 1082, lines 17-22), the object having an object edge (Smeulders, the edge map, page 1083, column 2, lines 11-18) and “an object outline” (Smeulders, the object contour, page 1085, column 1, lines 34-36) thereabout, from frame to frame over a sequence of images (Smeulders, tracking results over several frames, page 1088, figure 9), and

creating object outlines in subsequent frames (Smeulders, the new contour is calculated based on the predicted contour and the detected edge map, page 1083, column 1, lines 2-5; page 1085, column 1, lines 34-36) maintaining an object outline to object edge distance spacing relationship (Smeulders, the contour is positioned at the most significant edges within the search band C, page 1084, figure 2, column 1, lines 48-50) as the object moves or changes from frame to frame (Smeulders, tracking results over several frames, page 1088, figure 9).

It is noted that Smeulders does not teach the outlines are used "for converting two-dimensional images into three-dimensional images". However, Selsis teaches that the 2D object outlines of 2D images are converted into 3D object outlines in case of 3D stereoscopic images is well known in the art (Selsis, the 2D outlines found in the left and right 2D images are put under an epipolar constraint to convert them as the 3D outline in the 3D images; page 97, column 2, line 29 to page 98, column 1, line 2). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made, in view of the teaching of Selsis, to configure Smeulders' method as claimed by converting the detected 2D contours of the pairs of 2D left and right images, using the epipolar constraint, into the 3D contour of the 3D stereoscopic object. The purpose of using the object outlines to convert the 2D images into 3D images is to provide a realistic 3D stereoscopic image with the object outlines are detected and reduce the complexity of the detection of outline in the 3D images (Selsis, page 98, column 1, lines 16-18).

Claim 3 adds into claim 1 "one or more sub-objects contained within the object are defined such that the sub-objects are linked together and tracked as the object moves or changes from frame to frame" which Smeulders teaches in the head object containing the hair and the ear (Smeulders, page 1088, column 1, lines 8-18).

Claim 6 adds into claim 1 "the object outlines obey a maximum error threshold relative to an initial frame of definition" which Smeulders teaches the Search area C

which is defined by the initial predicted object outline and the maximum error threshold (Smeulder, page 1083, column 2, lines 1-5; page 1087, column 1, lines 7-14).

Claim 8 adds into claim 1 "the object outlines are created employing a pixel image data tracking technique" which Smeulders teaches in the edge detection which detects the abruptly change of the pixel value or the potential present of an edge (Smeulders, page 1083, column 2, lines 11-12; page 1087, column 2, lines 31-34).

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In claim 2, the allowable feature is "a virtual object corresponding to the object is defined such that the virtual object is tracked and the object outlines generated independent of whether the object is obstructed from view in a subsequent frame by another object moving into the foreground."

In claim 4, the allowable feature is "one or more points contained within the object are associated with depth information and defined such that the one or more points track the object as the object moves or changes from frame to frame."

In claim 5, the allowable feature is "one or more contour path lines contained within the object are associated with depth contour information and defined such that the one or more contour path lines track the object as the object moves or changes from frame to frame."

In claim 7, the allowable feature is "electing a severity of regulation for the distance spacing relationship to force errors in the object outlines to an acceptable tolerance.

In claim 9, the allowable feature is "the object outlines are created employing a key game curve interpolation technique."

In claim 10, the allowable feature is "the object outlines are created employing a combination of pixel image data tracking and key frame curve interpolation techniques."

Claims 11-30 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In claim 11, and its dependent claims 12-20, the allowable feature is "re-creating the outline in a different frame of the image sequence maintaining relative distances between the edges of the object and the outline to create a different perspective for a three-dimensional image."

In claim 20, and its dependent claims 21-30, the allowable feature is "re-creating the outline in different frames of the image sequence maintaining relative distances between the perimeter of the object and the outline to create an alternate perspective for a three-dimensional image sequence."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phu K. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)305 - 9796. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman can be reached on (703)305-9798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phu K. Nguyen
December 9, 2004

Phu K. Nguyen
PHU K. NGUYEN
EXAMINER
DEC 9 2004